



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

September 29, 2011

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These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

Grant Activity

9/22/11 The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$224 million under ACA §2951 "to support evidence-based home visiting programs to help parents and children." The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) was awarded a competitive expansion grant that totaled \$7,591,534. These funds will be used to serve additional communities across the Commonwealth and enhance collaborative efforts with state and local partners to build a comprehensive statewide early childhood system of care. In addition, Massachusetts was awarded a \$1,463,681 formula grant under this initiative. The Department of Early Education and Care, the Children's Trust Fund and the Department of Children and Families participated with DPH in the planning process for this grant. For more information regarding this award, please click [here](#).

9/27/11 The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded over \$103 million under ACA §4002 "to fight chronic disease, which is the leading cause of death in Americans." The Massachusetts Department of Public Health was awarded two grants that totaled \$3,079,988. One grant, totaling \$1,505,006, will serve the state of Massachusetts minus large counties. The other grant, totaling \$1,574,982, will serve the large county of Middlesex (including the cities of Lowell and Cambridge). Work will focus on expanding efforts in tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, quality clinical and other preventive services, social and emotional wellness, and healthy and safe physical environments. For more information regarding this award, please click [here](#).

Guidance

9/27/11 The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is extending the comment period for the **July 15, 2011 proposed rules on the Affordable Insurance Exchanges**. Comments are now due at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 31, 2011. For more information, please click [here](#).

News

9/13/11 In the blog section of healthcare.gov, Richard Sorian, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, wrote about the **first year accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act's Patient Bill of Rights**. Some of these highlights include data that there are one million more young adults with health insurance today than one year ago. Furthermore, the bill has made it illegal for insurance companies to deny coverage to children based on pre-existing conditions. For more information, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Next Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Implementation meeting
Monday October 17, 2011 from 11:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
1 Ashburton Place, 21st floor, Boston, MA

Open Meeting

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals

October 11, 2011, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
State Transportation Building
Conference Rooms 2 & 3, Second Floor
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: www.mass.gov/nationalhealthreform to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check <http://mass.gov/masshealth/duals> for information on the **"Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals"** initiative.